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# THE NEWSLETTER

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## DORRIDGE & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman: DAVID GLANFIELD ~ 779635 • Secretary: MALCOLM SHEPHERD ~ 773374 • Editor: PETER RADNALL ~ 770633  
e-mail address: [info@Dorridge.org.uk](mailto:info@Dorridge.org.uk)



### JIM TRANGMAR C Eng, M.I.Mech E.

1931 ~ 2005

The death of our Secretary and former Chairman Jim Trangmar on April 24th robbed all of us of a faithful and tireless champion of our Community. Tributes have already been paid to him at his funeral on May 5th and at various meetings of the organisations at which he represented the DDRA Committee and the residents of Dorridge, Bentley Heath and Four Ashes. We can only add that his knowledge of so many aspects of community life and his enormous energy and determination will be greatly missed by those of us who relied so heavily on them.



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## 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM on March 3rd was the most disappointing so far, with only a handful of residents in attendance. However we were in an unfamiliar venue, it was dark, and the weather was far from pleasant, so perhaps we should not be too discouraged. Once again the Officers and Committee were re-elected without contest, apart from Ken Alway-Jones, who left us after many years loyal support. However, we are pleased to welcome three new Committee Members, Bridget Trangmar, Ian Spencer and Tim Burchell.

## THE NEW LINE-UP

Chairman	<b>David Glanfield - 77 9635</b> Village Centre improvements/Police
Vice Chair	<b>Glennis Portsmouth - 77 5032</b> Youth issues/Police
Vice Chair	<b>Peter Radnall - 77 0633</b> Newsletter Publishing/Publicity
Secretary	<b>Malcolm Shepherd - 77 3374</b>
Treasurer	<b>Alan Holder - 77 8652</b>
Membership Sec	<b>Helen Bragg - 77 5358</b>
Planning Sec	<b>Ian Spencer - 77 0813</b>
Newsletter Distribution	<b>Pam Nunn - 77 2806</b>
Minutes Sec	<b>Bridget Trangmar - 77 5232</b> <b>Dave Carter - 77 0749</b> Publicity/Public Profile <b>Margaret Johnson - 77 2668</b> Health/Chair of Patients' Participation Group <b>Martin Lambert - 77 9259</b> Education/Solihull & Leamington Rail Users' Association <b>Nest Overend - 77 7584</b> Police Consultation Forum <b>Lilian Gates - 77 2103</b> <b>David Bell - 77 5920</b> <b>Tim Burchell - 73 9363</b>

## HELLO ! WHERE ARE YOU...?

In our December issue we reported that no less than 474 recorded members had failed to pay their 2004 subscription, and we wondered where they all were. Well we can now account for four of them, but the other 470 are still missing. If you didn't pay last year but would like to do so for 2005 please get in touch, using the slip at the end of this Newsletter.

## AND WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU...!

If you would like to join us you too can use the slip at the end. Our membership subscription is only £1 per person over 18, and our year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Membership entitles you to attend our Annual General Meeting, and precious little else. But you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your money keeps DDRA afloat, and the more we have the more we can do for our area. Most of our expenditure goes on fighting developers, buying paper and other consumables, paying our contracted landscape gardener, purchasing things to plant and any other ways we can find to improve our area and its amenities. Of course, we say it's £1, but if you want to give us more...!

## AND YOU'RE ALREADY WITH US...!

...if you are one of the 616 members we had on April 15th - 440 renewals and 176 new members. However we would still love to top 1000 this year, so if you know of any potential payers please point them in our direction.

## NADEEM NABS A NASTY

Congratulations to Nadeem Kassam who works in the Ticket Office at Dorridge Station. The police have awarded Nadeem their Blue Lamp award for his help in

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leading them to an alleged serial offender. Last November the police gave Nadeem the description of a man they wanted to question and asked him to keep an eye open for him. Later Nadeem spotted the man and alerted the police, but knowing that they had only 15 minutes before the man's train arrived our resourceful booking clerk went and stood near the man and pointed him out to the police when they arrived. The man attempted to escape but the officers arrested him. More recently Nadeem identified someone who had stolen a charity box and called British Transport Police to let them know which train he was on and where he was going. We are lucky to have such a public spirited young man working on our patch and we issue this warning to criminals. 'Stay away from Dorridge Station'!

## PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS

Our 'who does what' list above shows Ian Spencer as our new Planning Secretary, and he can be contacted on 77 0813, or by e-mail at [IanMSpencer@gmail.com](mailto:IanMSpencer@gmail.com). Currently there are a number of local developments where the issue of Affordable Housing has been brought up, and developers have been quite happy to interpret the phrase in a different way from that intended in Government planning guidance. Affordable Housing does not mean building some cheap, small houses as part of a development. Rather it is a mechanism to ensure that larger developments work with Housing Associations or financial institutions to provide homes that can be either rented or bought at low cost by means of shared equity. Currently this applies to two proposed developments in our area, the site at Eveson's and the one off Paddock Drive.

Planning Policy Guidance 3 (PPG3) and Solihull's Affordable Housing Policy both say that there must be affordable housing on a development of over 0.5 hectares or 14 dwellings. The housing should be on-site, and should cost around £100 per week for family accommodation. Planning permission should not be granted without a firm contract, which should be

available to public view.

It appears that the Council is applying this policy, which is why the developers of the Eveson's site have not yet got full planning permission. Contrary to public opinion the Council does believe that it is practical - and necessary - to provide affordable housing in the B93 area. And that view, of course, provides us with a very useful weapon to use against developers who seek to build only high value properties.

More about affordable housing at [www.solihull.gov.uk/Planning](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Planning) or [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk) - (office of the Deputy Prime Minister)

## GOOD NEWS ON PLANNING

The Council has rejected two contentious Planning Applications in Dorridge: 339-343 Station Road, and 1 Spring Coppice Drive. Both plans were vigorously opposed by residents with the support of DDRA. Congratulations once again to the local action groups - it really is their effort that wins the day!

## 'ELLO, 'ELLO

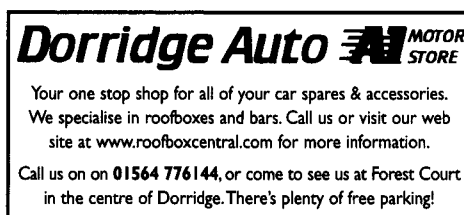
You may have seen the Rural Sector Police's new mobile station around our area recently. It is being used to good effect across the sector, and makes a highly visible announcement that policing in the Rural Sector has moved up several notches. 'Operation Robroy', launched last Autumn to tackle anti-social behaviour locally was due to finish at the end of April but has been extended. Good news and bad news really - good that we continue to get the attention, bad that our locally based officers think we still need it!

## DORRIDGE IN LINE FOR A NATIONAL AWARD?

That would be 'The Ugliest New Building in Britain Award' - if there were such a thing. DDRA prides itself



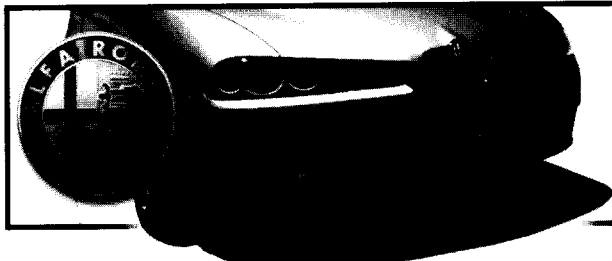
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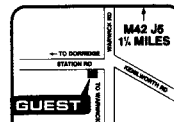


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**GUEST**

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on its tact and diplomacy but Cameron House opposite Eveson's on Station Road compels us to be almost rude! Was there ever such a grotesque travesty of a building? Here, at the gateway to Dorridge, with its wonderful mix of designs from mid-Victorian to mid-nineties we have this clownish concoction which takes a bit from all other designs, adds a bit of ancient Greek, some weird looking cladding and presents itself as a serious building. Really!!!

Sorry Bentley Heath and Four Ashes, it is of course your website as well, but DDRA is already in use as another Residents Association site name. The site will give details of all DDRA doings and information together with an up to the minute planning page, our contact details and links to other useful sites. Many thanks to Dave Pinwell at 'About B93' for his bargain basement pricing. We also now have a simple e-mail address : [info@Dorridge.org.uk](mailto:info@Dorridge.org.uk).

Why not get in touch?

### HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO...

...help to deliver our Newsletter? Four times a year, that's all, with your route clearly shown and the correct number of copies delivered to your door. We could do with a few extra regulars, and some reserves to stand in when the regulars are not available. If you are interested, get more details from Pam Nunn on 77 2806.

### FANCY A TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT?

Our MP Caroline Spelman will give us an escorted trip around the Houses of Parliament at a date to be arranged. Before we go any further we need an idea of interest. If you would like to be included phone Pam Nunn on 77 2806 - no commitment on your part or ours. If we have enough interest we will talk about date(s) and cost later.

### WE'VE GONE 'TECHIE'

DDRA now has its own website - [www.Dorridge.org.uk](http://www.Dorridge.org.uk).

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